simple steps...to protect kids
fall 2001
volume 2 number 4
Environmental Health News for 5-Star Childcare Facilities

Treated Lumber: What You Need to Know

In this Issue...

This newsletter is provided by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management for child care facilities participating in the 5-Star Environmental Recognition Program. This newsletter provides updates on environmental issues affecting children. Please feel free to use these articles in your own newsletters. We encourage you to post this in areas where parents will have access to it.

If you have any questions or comments about the information included here, please contact Karen Teliha at 800-988-7901.

IDEM - OPPTA
150 West Market St., Suite 703
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206

800.988.7901
www.IN.gov/idem/kids

This summer, a local Indianapolis television station aired several stories on the dangers of treated lumber. Treated lumber is often used to build playground equipment, fences, and decks. Treated lumber has pesticides applied to prevent the wood from rotting. The pesticides are referred to as CCA, which stands for the chemicals used (chromium, copper, and arsenic). CCA protects wood from dry rot, fungi, molds, termites, and other pests that can threaten the integrity of wood products.

Arsenic is the chemical of most concern. Several studies have shown arsenic from CCA treated lumber can be picked up on hands or anything that touches the lumber. The worry is that children playing on this lumber are being exposed to arsenic simply by touching it. Another concern is possible high levels of arsenic in soil around items made from the lumber.

Should I test my playground for arsenic?

Many homeowners did test as a result of the stories aired by the news. The problem with testing is that there are no standards for what a safe level of arsenic in lumber is. So the results from the lab will probably mean very little to you. The test will basically tell you, "Yes, there is arsenic in this lumber."

What is currently being done to protect children from CCA lumber?

EPA has been working with the American Wood Preservatives Institute to provide proper notice to citizens about how to handle CCA treated lumber. Results of studies by EPA should be released later this fall. At that time, consumers will be able to make better decisions about the handling and use of CCA treated lumber. Below are a few recommendations you should consider if you have CCA lumber:

1. Wear gloves when working with the wood. After working with treated wood, and before eating, drinking, and toileting, wash exposed areas thoroughly. (For child care facilities, the 5-Star program highly recommends washing the children's hands after playing outside. Do not use wood that is still wet to the touch with the CCA to build playground equipment. Often, when purchased new, the wood is still drenched with the preservative. You may even want to consider using a sealer on the wood to prevent children from coming in contact with the preservative.)

2. Dispose of treated wood by ordinary trash collection. Do NOT burn treated wood because toxic chemicals may be produced as part of the smoke and

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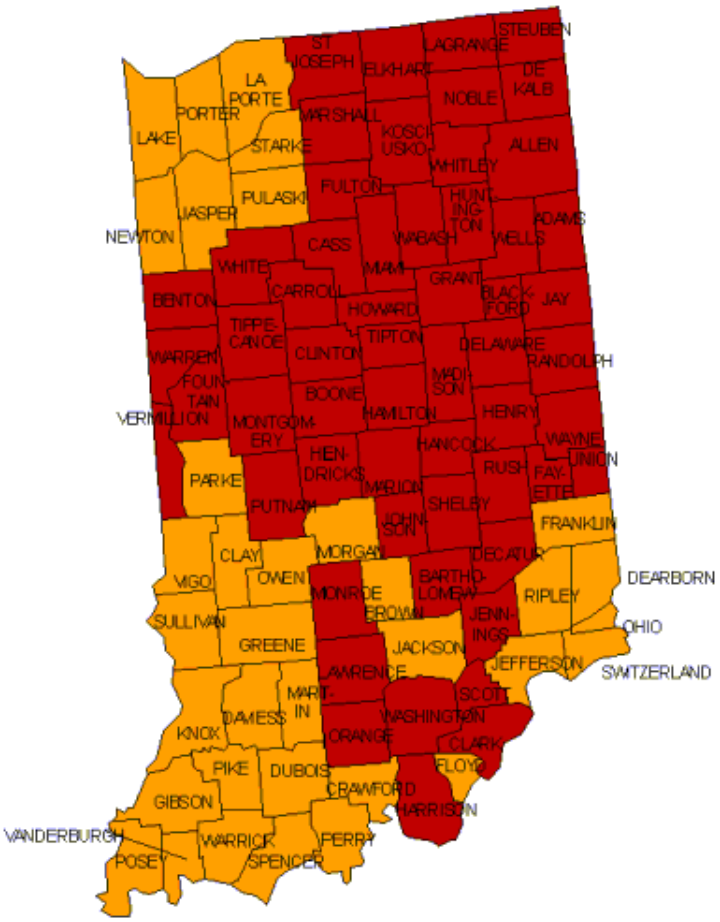
Radon: What You Don't know Can Hurt You.
National Radon Action Week: October 14-20, 2001

You can't see radon. You can't smell it or taste it. You may never have even heard of it. But radon may be a problem in your home or childcare.

Radon is a cancer-causing, radioactive gas that can be found all over the United States. Radon comes from the natural radioactive breakdown of uranium in soil, rock, and water and gets into the air we breathe. Radon is estimated to cause thousands of deaths each year. Breathing air that contains radon can cause lung cancer. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. today.

In Indiana, close to 1 in 4 homes have elevated radon levels. Any home may have a radon problem. The only way to know about your home is to test. The quickest way to test is with a short-term test, which remains in a home from 2-90 days depending on the test device. A long-term test (for more than 90 days) will give a more accurate reading that is likely to be closer to the year round average radon level.

How to Reduce Your Chances of Getting Lung Cancer from Radon:
Test your home for radon and reduce high levels (a list of radon mitigators is available calling the Radon Hotline at (800) 272-9723.)
If you drink water from a private well, have your water tested for radon.
If you are a smoker, stop smoking. If you smoke and your home has high radon levels, your risk of lung cancer is especially high.



The U.S. EPA and the U.S. Geological Survey have evaluated the radon potential in the U.S. and have developed this map is to assist National, State, and local organizations to target their resources and to assist building code officials in deciding whether radon-resistant features are applicable in new construction. This map is not intended to be used to determine if a home in a given zone should be tested for radon. Homes with elevated levels of radon have been found in all three zones. All homes should be tested regardless of geographic location. The map assigns each of the counties in the State to one of three zones based on radon potential. Each zone designation reflects the average short-term radon measurement that can be expected to be measured in a building without the implementation of radon control methods. The radon zone designation of the highest priority is Zone 1.

Zone 1 Highest Potential (greater than 4 pCi/L)

Zone 2 Moderate Potential (from 2 to 4 pCi/L)

Zone 3 Low Potential (less than 2 pCi/L)

When your water comes from a well...

Do I have to comply with this regulation?

Are you a child care home, center, or ministry that gets water from a well? If so, you need to be aware of regulations affecting your facility. The Indiana Department of Envi ronmental Management, Office of Water Quality regulates businesses that "produce" drinking water. This regulation applies to you if you meet the criteria on the attached flow chart.

How do I hire a Certified Operator?

If you are a Nontransient Noncommunity public water supply, you must hire a Certified Operator for your water supply. The certified operator is required to monitor the system for adequate operation. If problems occur, the operator is to assist in determining the problem and making the appropriate repairs or informing you of the problems and suggesting contractors capable of repairing the problem. The operator is also responsible for taking the samples or ensuring that the samples are taken by a responsible person. IDEM maintains a list of over 4,000 certified operators from across the state (Call Jackie Tyler at 317-308-3307 for a list). Before hiring one of these certified operators, you should determine if you have a person currently at your facility who is qualified to be "grand-parented" into this rule and can legally act as your certified operator. Answer the ques- tion below to determine if someone can be grand-parented in as a certified operator.

Yes No The person chosen to be the grand-parented certified operator has been employed here since prior to September 2, 2000 **and your system has been in compliance with monitoring and reporting requirements since September 1, 2000.**

If you were able to answer yes to the above question, then this person must complete the IDEM grand-parenting form to apply to be a certified operator. But you must apply for this grand-parenting before September 1, 2002. They will be required to re-certify every three years.

If this person is a new employee since September 2, 2000 or if you are a new facility since September 1, 2000, then you must hire a certified operator. Contact IDEM for a list of certified operators you can hire.

Now you must determine the certification level your operator must have. If you have a water softener or filtration then you must hire an operator who is certified as a "WT1" or higher. This person must perform at least three (3) daily visits every week. If you do not have any types of treatment occurring, then your operator can be certified as a "DSS" or higher. This person must perform at least two (2) daily visits every week. If you have an automatic chlorination device or any type of chemical feed, then you must use an operator certified as a "WT2" or higher. This person must perform at least five (5) daily visits every week.

New Systems

If you are a system considering beginning operation, you must submit and have approved a water system management plan (WSMP). This plan must demonstrate that the system has the technical, financial, and managerial capacity to operate as a public water supply. All new systems must receive approval from the Commissioner of IDEM prior to serving water to users of the system. A packet of information will be sent to you explaining the requirements. Staff of the Drinking Water Branch is also available to help you understand this and to answer your questions about the requirements. The plan must be reviewed by a certified public accountant and a professional engineer. Before you acquire any property or any lease that involves a well used

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for drinking water, contact the Drinking Water Branch at 317/308-3308.

What contaminants do I test for and how often?

You will be told what contaminants to test for and how often once you submit your initial application to IDEM and are activated and receive a public water supply ID number (PWSID#). Nontransient Noncommunity Systems are required to test their drinking water for Inorganic Chemicals (IOCs), Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), Synthetic Organic Compounds (SOCs), Lead, Copper, Nitrite, bacteria, and nitrates. At a minimum, bacteria must be tested on a quarterly basis and nitrates must be tested annually. The frequency of testing the other contaminants will vary depending on the results of your tests and whether or not you apply for monitoring waivers.

Where should I collect the samples?

Sampling for the VOCs, SOCs, IOCs, Nitrate, and Nitrite are at the entry point of the distribution system after all treatment (such as water softeners, filters, etc.). These samples must be collected during periods of normal operation and represent all sources of water serving that entry point. Sampling for Bacteria, Asbestos, Lead, and Copper are done in the distribution system, typically from the kitchen or restroom faucet.

Besides sample costs and lab fees, does IDEM have any fees?

IDEM has no permit fees for operation; but there is a fee for construction permits which are required if you make changes to the water supply system (such as adding a water softener, chlorinator, running additional water lines, etc.). You will need a construction permit if you began operating a childcare facility on or after October 1, 1999 at a location that utilizes a well even if you did not actually build a new building, well, etc. For instance, you have been living in your home since 1975 and decided to open a child care business from your home in December 2000. You are required to get a construction permit because your well went from a regular household system to a public water supply for your business.

Certified operators have to pay a fee for certification. However the grand-parented operators do not have to pay the initial certification fee but they will have to pay the renewal fee every three years.

Lab fees can vary greatly, so be sure to shop around and get quotes. If you're a nontransient system, your first sampling session will involve all the contaminants listed in the question above. Estimated lab costs range from $1,500 to $2,500 for all these tests. If your results come back with no detections and you apply for monitoring waivers, you may not have to sample again for most of the chemical contaminants for another 3 to 9 years. At a minimum, you must always sample for bacteria on a quarterly basis and nitrates on a yearly basis. Once again, the sampling requirements and frequency will be sent to you by the Drinking Water Branch as soon as you become a system.

What reports or sample results must I submit to the state?

A monthly report of operation to IDEM is required if you add chemicals such as chlorine to your system. If

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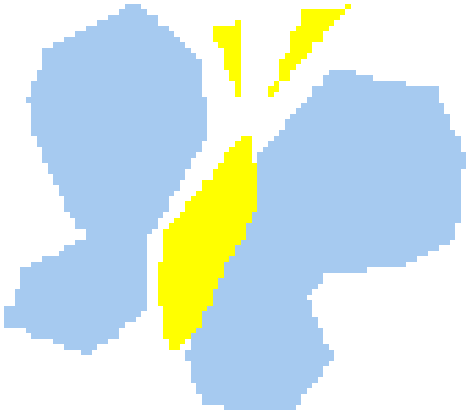
you have a filtration system, water softener, or have no treatment at all, you are required to keep a record of how much water you use each month, but you are not required to submit this information, but should make it available to inspectors if asked.



When you set a contract up with your lab or certified operator, you may want to consider having them mail your results directly to IDEM. Otherwise, you need to remember to mail the results to IDEM once you receive them. All results must be reported to IDEM within ten (10) days after the end of the monitoring period. For example, if you are collecting bacteriological samples on a quarterly basis, IDEM must receive the results within ten (10) days after the end of the quarter.

FSSA requires that you send results to your licensing consultant.

Where can I send my samples to be analyzed?

Samples are to be analyzed by a lab certified by the State of Indiana. The Indiana State Department of Health has a list of certified labs available on the internet at http://www.in.gov/isdh/labs/lab_cert.htm

How do I get started? Do I have to notify the State or fill out an application?

You must notify IDEM of your intention to begin operation as a public water supply system. Please call Judy Kennedy with the IDEM Drinking Water Branch at 317-308-3298. Tell her you are a childcare facility trying to determine if you are a nontransient noncommunity Water System and would like the Questionnaire mailed to you. Once you mail the completed Questionnaire back to IDEM, they will determine if you must comply with this regulation and send you a start up packet.

Capacity Development - Effective September 9, 1999, all new community and nontransient noncommunity public water systems commencing operation after October 1, 1999, must demonstrate that they have the technical, managerial, and financial capacity to operate a public water supply *before* they are allowed to operate. To demonstrate capacity, a water system management plan must be prepared and submitted to the IDEM that provides details regarding the technical, managerial, and financial aspects of the proposed water supply. If your daycare was open and operating prior to October 1, 1999, the regulation regarding capacity development for new systems does not apply to you. For more information on the Capacity Development regulation, please contact Larey Conquergood at 317-308-3285

Using Cleaning Products Safely

When you work with chemicals on a daily basis, it is easy to forget just how dangerous these products can be. The tendency is to forget to treat them with the respect they deserve, and painful injuries are often the result.

Cleaning products are a good example. Most of us use cleaning products fairly frequently, at work and at home. But how many of us actually bother reading the directions or product contents? How many of us use rubber gloves or splash goggles?

Many cleaning products are classified as "corrosive". Corrosives are defined as those chemicals that cause damage to organic material, especially human flesh. Acids and bases are all corrosive, and most cleaners are composed of acids and bases. Think about it: when cleaning, you're trying to "eat" away the dirt and grime. Most likely, the more effective a product is at eating away the dirt, the more effective it will be at eating away the skin on your hands. It will also do more damage if accidentally splashed in your eyes.

Cleaning products can also be extremely reactive when mixed. Bleach, when mixed with any product containing ammonia (or visa versa), will react to produce deadly chlorine gas. **NEVER MIX CHEMICALS, ESPECIALLY CLEANING PRODUCTS**. Some people think that if something works well by itself, it might work even better if combined with something else..... **Wrong**!!! Even emptying a mop bucket with an ammonia containing product into the sink, followed by a sponge full of bleach, can produce enough chlorine gas to be dangerous.

Take whatever steps are necessary to avoid mixing cleaning products. Always run clean water through a drain after dumping any sort of cleaning product down it. Wear rubber gloves, especially when using industrial strength cleaners. If there's any chance of getting a splash in the eye, wear protective goggles. If you do get a chemical splashed in your eye, flush it in clean water for at least 15 minutes.

Always use common sense to protect yourself, and treat all chemicals with the respect they deserve.

Text from Oklahoma State University, Environmental Health Science, Safety Training Program

Mixing bleach with cleaning products containing acids or ammonia can create a deadly environment!

Cleaning Products that typically contain:

Acids
Toilet bowl cleaners
Drain cleaners
Metal cleaners
Anit-rust compounds

Ammonia
Drain cleaners
Automatic dishwashing detergents
Glass cleaners
Oven cleaners

Bleach/Chlorine
Chlorinated Scouring Powder
Bleach Solutions

NEVER mix bleach with cleaning products. This includes using bleach at the same time other cleaning products are being used where the fumes from both products can mix and cause a deadly environment. Mixing bleach with acid or ammonia containing products will create a deadly chlorine gas. Get to fresh air immediately! Ammonia is hidden in many cleaning products so you may not always know what you're mixing. The best rule is not to mix cleaning chemicals!

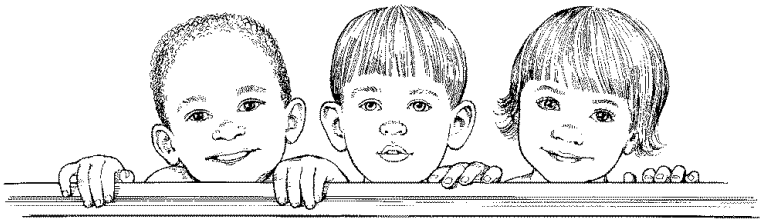
Left Blank Intentionally. Missing Flow Chart for Drinking Water Regulations.

Use and Care of Home Humidifiers

Humidifiers are commonly used in homes to relieve the physical discomforts of dry nose, throat, lips, and skin. The moisture they add to dry air also helps alleviate common nuisances brought on by winter heating, such as static electricity, peeling wallpaper, and cracks in paint and furniture. However, excess moisture can encourage the growth of biological organisms in the home. These organisms include dust mites, which are microscopic animals that produce materials causing allergic reactions to household dust, and molds.

Recent studies by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) have shown that ultrasonic and impeller (or "cool mist") humidifiers can disperse materials, such as microorganisms and minerals, from their water tanks into indoor air.

It is important to use a humidifier only when conditions require it, to use the correct moisture setting for existing conditions, and to clean it thoroughly.



To reduce the potential for personal exposures to these materials, take the following precautions, particularly when using ultrasonic and impeller humidifiers.

- Empty the tank, wipe all surfaces dry, and refill the water in portable humidifiers daily to reduce any growth of microorganisms; follow the manufacturer's instructions for changing water in console humidifiers. Be sure you unplug the unit from the electrical socket first.

- Use water with low mineral content (distilled water) to prevent the build-up of scale and the dispersal of minerals into the air.

- Clean portable humidifiers every third day. Empty the tank and use a brush or other scrubber to clean it. Remove any scale, deposits, or film that has formed on the sides of the tank or on interior surfaces, and wipe all surfaces dry. Again, be sure you unplug the unit.

- Follow the manufacturer's suggestions on the use of cleaning products or disinfectants. In the absence of specific recommendations, clean all surfaces coming in contact with water with a 3% solution of hydrogen peroxide. If you use any cleaning or disinfecting agent, rinse the tank thoroughly with several changes of tap water to prevent dispersal of chemicals into the air during use.

- Follow the manufacturer's directions on cleaning and maintaining console and central (furnace mounted) humidifiers. In particular, if the humidifier contains a tank, do not allow water to stand in the tank for extended periods of time, and keep the water clean.

- Clean the humidifier before and after storage.

- Do not humidify to indoor relative humidity levels exceeding 50 percent. Higher humidity levels may encourage the growth of biological organisms in the home. Hygrometers, available at local hardware stores, may be used to measure humidity levels. Some humidifiers contain a built-in humidistat which may be adjusted to the proper moisture level. If water condenses on windows, walls, or pictures, either relocate the humidifier, lower its humidistat setting, or reduce its use.

- Do not permit the area around the humidifier to become damp or wet. If dampness occurs, turn the output volume of the humidifier down. If the humidifier output volume cannot be turned down, use the, humidifier intermittently. Do not allow absorbent materials, such as carpeting, drapes, or table cloths, to become damp.

Text Provided by EPA

When to Offer Hepatitis B Vaccinations to your Staff

As a participant in the 5-Star Program, you should already be aware of the requirement to have a written Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan. Hopefully you have received the "fill-in-the-blank" Plan for Child Care Facilities. (If you need a copy, call Karen at 800-988-7901.) Within that plan is a requirement to state when the Hepatitis B Vaccinations must be offered to your staff. We have had many questions about what is required. The information below should help you sort out what is required at your facility.

You must offer the vaccination free of charge in the following situations:

1. **To any staff who has the potential to be exposed.** In your "fill in the blank" Bloodborne Pathogen Plan, there is a section that requires you to list all jobs in your facility into three categories: handling blood full time, handling blood sometimes, and never handling blood. For those employees who will be handling blood full time, you are required to offer the vaccination upon hire. For those handling blood sometimes or never, you may offer it upon hire, but you must offer it when ever there may have been an exposure. See below to learn how to reduce the number of people who have the potential to be exposed.

2. **To any staff who has been exposed to a bloodborne pathogen hazard.** If a teacher, maintenance staff, nurse, etc. is exposed to blood, then those staff must be offered the vaccination at no cost to them. You should be providing personal protective equipment (gloves, etc.) to prevent exposure. But if an employee believes they may have come into contact with blood, then you must offer to pay for the Hepatitis B vaccination, even if they have already signed a declination statement previously.

Many facilities want to limit the number of staff that could be exposed and thereby would have to be offered the vaccination at a cost to the facility. To do this, you must establish in your Plan, a list of the people or job classifications who are allowed to handle situations where exposure may occur. For example, if someone was bleeding, you might have a procedure in place that only allows the nurse at the facility to work with the person. This way, she is the only one with the possibility of being exposed. Often, if a facility designates one or two people to play this role, the vaccination is offered before any exposure occurs.

Any time you offer the vaccination to an employee and they decline it, you should document it. There is a declination statement in the Plan mentioned above. Have the employee sign the declination statement and keep it with their file. This is proof that you have taken the steps you were required to. You must always re-offer a vaccination each time an employee is exposed, even if they have previously declined the vaccination.

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

For the past year, the 5-Star Program has required new participants to install carbon monoxide alarms if they have any gas appliances at the facility (gas heat, gas stove, etc.) If you do have a gas line running into your facility, please install at least one CO alarm. They generally can be purchased for $30 to $40. Be sure to read the instructions on the alarm you purchase. Below are a few tips on where and where not to install your CO alarm:

*Put near rooms where people spend most of their time.
*Put where the alarm can be heard.
*Put where the alarm can be seen.
*Do not put the alarm in the garage, furnace room, or near a gas cooking stove, etc.
*Do not put the alarm in dead air space, corner of a room, near the floor, in the peak of vaulted ceilings. (Carbon monoxide does not fall or rise in the air column.)
*Do not put the alarm near open windows or doors.
*Do not put the alarm in excessively hot or cold areas, or excessively damp or dry areas.
*Do not put a cloth or plastic cover over the detector.

Tips from Wayne State University, School of Medicine

Bleach:
Using Wipes instead of Spray Bottles

Most of you are dealing with dramatically increasing numbers of children in your care that have asthma or severe allergy symptoms. Several directors have raised the question of using wipes instead of spraying bleach to reduce the bleach odor and irritants in the air that could cause an asthma attack. If this is something you are considering, you may want to keep the following in mind:

1. Child care regulations do not require that you use spray bottles to apply bleach solution. You can use buckets of bleach solution and a cloth to clean a surface. Never leave buckets of bleach solution open in the class rooms. Bleach fumes can irritate eyes and throats.

2. You can purchase disinfectant wipes. Be sure they meet the state requirements for the bleach solution though, otherwise you are out of compliance.

3. If you decide to use a bucket and cloth to clean a surface, watch for skin irritation on staffs hands as bleach can be a skin irritant.

With the begining of the new school year, be sure all chemicals are labeled, including secondary bottles, such as your bleach spray bottles.

4. Avoid cleaning activities (whether using spray bottles or wipes) when children are nearby. If possible, clean when they are out of the room.

5. You should check with your licensing inspector to be sure you do not need written approval to use alternative disinfecting methods.

Pesticides: Mouse Bait

Recently, we found that some facilities using mouse bait. DO NOT use these. They are tiny, bright colored pellets that are set out in containers often in closets or maintenance rooms. Mice can carry the pellets throughout your facility, including into classrooms. There have been cases of children eating these pellets since they look like candy.

Although we do not want you to spray for pests (there are many healthier alternatives available, please call us for more information), if your contractor is spraying at your facility, you need to ask for Material Safety Data Sheets for the pesticides that are being used. We have recently visited facilities where a pesticide called "Dursban" was being applied throughout the facility. DO NOT let your contractor use this pesticide. The Environmental Protection Agency has banned this pesticide from production because of its affects on children. Although contractors are allowed to use up any remaining Dursban they may have, you should not allow them to use it at your facility (since your facility caters to providing a healthy environment for children).

Upcoming Health Observances

September
- Baby Safety Month

October
- Child Health Month
- Healthy Lung Month
- National Campaign for Healthier Babies Month
- Talk About Prescriptions Month
- National Fire Prevention Week
- Lead Poisoning Prevention Week
- National Radon Action Week
- National Health Education Week

November
- Great American Smokeout

December
- Safe Toys and Gifts Month

CCA Treated Lumber continued....

ashes. (The 5-star program recommends double bagging any sawdust debris before throwing it in the trash.)

3. Avoid frequent or prolonged inhalation of sawdust from treated wood. Sawing, sanding, and machining of treated wood should be performed outdoors while wearing a dust mask and goggles. (The 5-star program recommends that children be removed from the area when any of these activities are taking place. The area should be free of sawdust before children return.)

5. Do not use treated wood for mulch, cutting boards, counter tops, beehives, animal bedding or structures or containers for storing animal feed or human food. Do no use where treated wood may come into direct or indirect contact with drinking water.

Are there alternatives to using CCA treated wood?

We realize that people may not want to use wood that has been treated with CCA. When selecting materials to use for decks, playgrounds, and other outdoor structures, consumers and communities should consider other factors in addition to the environment, such as cost, strength, and durability. There are a variety of alternatives to wood which are available for use in building structures, such as steel, recycled plastic, and concrete. In addition, EPA has registered over one hundred wood preservatives. If you are interested in finding preservatives that do not contain CCA, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation maintains a database of all pesticides registered by U.S. EPA.

Mercury versus Alcohol Thermometers

With all the talk about mercury in our homes, do you know how to tell the difference between a mercury and an alcohol thermometer? Mercury thermometers have a silver liquid, alcohol uses a red or blue liquid. Remember, remove those mercury thermometers from your facility, recycle them at your local solid waste management district and replace them with a non-mercury alternative. Also, there is a new product available that uses a bi-metal. Unfortunately, it is a silver liquid just like mercury, but you should be able to tell the difference because the theremometer should say “mercury free”.

Fountain Flusher

Need help remembering to flush your water fountains for 30 seconds before using them? Want a fun and easy way to teach children about how to reduce lead exposure? Try a suggestion from one of our very own 5-Star facilities. Assign a new child every week to be the “Fountain Flusher”. Each morning it will be that child’s responsiblity to run water through the fountain before anyone drinks out of it. Have them sing a song while doing it to be sure they flushed the water long enough.

Lead Poisoning Prevention Week - October 21-27, 2001

EPA, along with otehr government and nonprofit agencies, hopes to raise awareness of lead poisoning by celebrating the 3rd National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week from October 21 to 27, 2001. Almost 10% of Indiana children have blood lead levels high enough to cause permanent brain damage. Lessor exposures to lead can cause learning disabilities, hyperactivity, and impaired hearing. The most significant sources of lead exposure for children are deteriorated lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust. Lead-based paints were banned for use in housing in 1978. Try the recipes for snacks included in this mailing to celebrate Lead Poisoning Prevention Week. These snacks are high in iron and calcium which help combat lead levels in children.

Daylight Saving Time Ends Sunday, October 28 For Most Americans. Secretary Mineta Reminds Americans to Change Smoke Detector Batteries

Most of the nation will return to standard time at 2 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 28, when clocks will be set back one hour. The change will provide an additional hour of daylight in the morning.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta also reminds Americans to change the batteries in their smoke detectors when they change the time on their clocks.

"When changing your clocks, remember the old saying: 'Spring ahead, fall back,'" Secretary Mineta said. "It's also a good time to make sure your smoke alarm has a new battery."

EPA Smoke-Free Home Campaign

The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have come together to increase awareness about the dangers of secondhand smoke through the Smoke Free Home Campaign. This program offers you the chance to take a pledge to keep cigarette smoke out of your home, allowing you to take the first step toward a smoke-free life and keep harmful secondhand smoke away from your children.

To sign the pledge or to get free information, including free activities for kids check out the website at: http://www.aaaai.org/public/epa/epa_smoke_free.stm

Great American Smokeout is in November!

Secondhand Smoke Training Module for Child Care Providers

The ***Secondhand Smoke Training Module for Child Care Providers*** has been developed by the National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care (NRCHSCC) and the National Safety Council's Environmental Health Center (NSC/EHC). You will find it contains information about the dangers of secondhand smoke, resources to increase your knowledge, and ideas for using the materials with parents, children, and your co-workers. The objective of the training module is to provide caregivers with information that can be used to inform parents about the harmful effects of secondhand smoke, and thereby reduce children's exposure in the home. The module is available as a series of nine Adobe Acrobat PDF files on the web at: http://www.nsc.org/ehc/indoor/abc.htm. A copy has also been included in this mailing.